

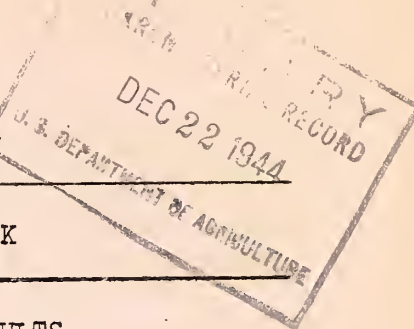
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Cap 2

Extension Service - War Food Administration



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W A R T I M E      E X T E N S I O N      W O R K

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SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Exhibits of home-made poultry equipment at trading centers bring results.

Boys and girls gather 745 bushels of milkweed pods in one Saturday to provide floss for life jackets.

More than 80 percent of State's cotton acreage operated by members of one-variety associations.

4-H Club boys given basic training in "GI housekeeping."

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KENTUCKY

September 15, 1944

Farm labor. - Big burley tobacco crop developed after rains of late July, creating heavy demand for labor for cutting and housing. Men and boys were obtained in eastern counties, but shortage still prevails. In some counties schools have been closed so that bus drivers, teachers, and older boys could harvest tobacco. In Lexington and other cities campaigns have been put on to get industries and businesses to release men temporarily to help harvest tobacco crop. Effort also is being made to have soldiers sent to help with harvest.

In mid-August, demand for farm labor was so slight that workers seeking employment in eastern Kentucky were given opportunity of making application for work in potato harvest in Maine in late September and October. About 1,500 workers were sent, of whom at least 90 percent are not potential tobacco harvest hands.

Women continue to help in labor shortage, often doing double duty by working on farm and in home. Fleming County reported 59 WLA members, many doing all-year farm work. In Greenup County, where nearby war plants have taken most of men, women do all kinds of farm jobs. Outstanding example is 80-year-old woman who swung bundles of wheat to feeders table as wheat was being threshed.

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SUMMARY NO. 121

OCTOBER 14, 1944

Homemakers' clubs. - During last week in August, county representatives of homemakers' clubs met in seven districts of State to plan "extra-curricular" program of year. This supplements home-economics projects carried on in each county. Dividing into four groups--citizenship, reading, speakers' bureau, and publicity--they set up goals according to situation in each district.

4-H Clubs. - Three hundred 4-H Club boys took basic training in "GI housekeeping" at club camps in eastern Kentucky during summer. From county home demonstration agents, they learned how to make beds, clean their rooms, hang up their clothes, and in general how to be less bother to their mothers.

General farm courses offered boys included gardening, poultry keeping, stock feeding, and use of better seeds. Girls learned canning, drying foods, butter making, and how to make use of feed sacks. About 700 boys and girls attended other 4-H Club camps in State.

Kentucky 4-H Club boys and girls will help gather milkweed floss for use in life jackets. Survey made by county agents and State college indicates there is enough milkweed in about 30 counties to make picking practical.

Farm building. - In spite of war restrictions, farm people are making extensive building and improvement plans. Kentucky College of Agriculture and Home Economics sent to farmers, upon request, almost 2,000 sets of plans for buildings and equipment. Most requests were for plans and information on stock and poultry buildings, granaries and other storages, self-feeders, and other labor-saving equipment. As result, about 8,000 new buildings were constructed, 10,000 remodeled, and about 10,000 pieces of livestock and poultry equipment made. Increase in stock raising in Kentucky has revealed that many farmers do not have adequate buildings for stock, poultry, and crops.

Briefs. - Clark County turkey raisers have 28,000 turkeys in flocks of 200 or more....Harlan Kiwanis Club is making awards to farmers in Harlan County who sow their entire cultivated acreage to cover crops....Redtop treated with ammonium nitrate yielded around 2,700 pounds more per acre than did untreated, on farm of A. K. Norris in Russell County....In Bell County, in highest part of Kentucky mountains, five community libraries have been established by homemakers' clubs.

## MISSOURI

September 25, 1944

Farm labor. - Farm laborers are moving rapidly to meet regional and seasonal needs, though fewer in number than a year ago. Hundreds have gone into cotton area from bordering Ozark counties to stay for cotton picking. Growers of large acreages are having less difficulty than those with small farms. Pickers are also bypassing localities where cotton fields are small or far apart. Rate paid pickers is about same as last year.

With prospects for one of largest corn crops on record, farmers in north Missouri are arranging to get help for corn shucking. Extension program calls for recruiting at least 500 shuckers to be moved from minor corn-growing



counties. Mechanical corn pickers will also be a big help. Local manufacture of buck rakes--each capable of saving labor of two or three men in hay and grain harvest--has made considerable difference in harvest labor shortage this year. In one county, local machinist has made 402 tractor buck rakes in last 2 years. More than 100 workers have gone into Platte County to help with tobacco harvest. Apple pickers are in urgent demand in heavier fruit sections, and some growers offer bonus to workers who stay till crop is all in.

Post-war service. - Planning of extension work to meet post-war problems was topic of series of five district meetings reaching all county extension workers. Keynote was that Extension must encourage every rural family to achieve higher standard of living through greater efficiency in business of farming. Emphasis was placed on expansion of educational service to rural homemakers and rural youth. Agents brought outstanding county leaders so that attendance ranged from 125 to 175 persons per meeting. Each district group chose four representatives to serve on State-wide committee--one each on home improvement, rural youth, balanced farming, and agricultural policy.

Poultry. - Poultry meetings have continued emphasis on production of thrifty pullets and have included demonstrations of culling and discussions of flock management. Poultry-house remodeling and equipment campaign got under way with mailing of illustrated circular to 100,000 producers in State. Much interest has been aroused by district and county demonstrations and equipment exhibits.

Montgomery County agent, after holding 12 meetings, built exhibit demonstration and gave it 1-day showing at each of 8 popular trading centers. On well-located lot at each center, he marked off space 20 feet square corresponding to floor plan of standard Missouri-type poultry house. In this space he placed recommended feeders, sanitary water fountain, dropping pits, nests, and hay racks, arranged as required for 100 laying hens. All equipment shown was made of native lumber, and each carried poster giving the cost of its materials. Of 185 persons registering at these exhibits a considerable number said they would construct at least part of the equipment right away.

Food preservation. - Demands for canning demonstrations were fewer this year than in either of last 2 years. However, canning clinics on judging and improving quality of canned products; preparing foods for freezer lockers; probable causes of spoilage; using and caring for wartime equipment; and more efficient methods of using homemaker's time and energy have been greater in number and better attended. At many of these meetings, pressure-cooker gages have been tested. Majority were brought in by people who had never been in extension offices, including many very young homemakers.

Neighborly service rendered by canning aide as voluntary bearer of wartime information from Extension Service has been approved and accepted by virtually all organized groups. Recent reports show that American Legion Auxiliary, Women's Progressive Farm Clubs, Home Economics Extension Clubs, Federated Garden Clubs, civic groups, and church societies have cooperated by selecting aides from their own groups to be trained by agents to serve in county-wide leadership systems. Many country storekeepers, most of whom now are women, serve as canning aides because their stores are accessible neighborhood centers.

Balanced farming. - New patterns in farming were observed by 3,235 Missouri farmers who attended 88 balanced-farming field meetings on farms in 75 counties. Outstanding among methods for increased and sustained production demonstrated were: (1) Terraces with grassed outlets, serving as nucleus of complete water-management system; (2) systematic improved pasture systems including short rotations of legumes and small grains to get maximum livestock carrying capacity; (3) good livestock management practices including sanitation, use of purebred sires, and utilization of pasture, roughage, and home-grown grain for maximum marketing of crops through livestock.

Cotton improvement. - More than 80 percent of Missouri's cotton acreage is now operated by members of one-variety cotton-improvement associations. This type of local organization was started with single group under Extension Service sponsorship in 1938. Now 112 such associations are cooperating with ginners and State seed-improvement associations. Groups work under provisions of Smith-Doxey Act providing free classing service and market information. In Mississippi County alone, two one-variety associations have combined membership of 479 growers who apply improvement program to 28,000 acres of cotton.

4-H Club work. - Immediately following series of 12 recreational camps have come county achievement days, district round-ups, and district fairs. All these activities have been maintained during war at a level surpassing that of pre-war years. At 16 round-ups, 107 counties were represented by 2,920 members and leaders--three times as many as ever participated in State round-up. Combined 4-H attendance at five district fairs is expected to be five times as great as 4-H Club participation in Missouri State Fair, for which district fairs are wartime substitute. In all these events emphasis is placed on production of quality exhibits, good practices in demonstration and judging, and personal health.

St. Francois County agents concentrated on tomato growing as vegetable project in this year's 4-H Club work. This project added many members to county's club enrollment and was valuable aid in getting new leaders. Total of 907 boys and girls produced by September 1 enough tomatoes to meet yearly tomato requirements of 1,200 persons, besides saving shipping facilities. Adoption of single vegetable project enabled leaders to instruct as many as 35 members each in proper methods of tomato growing.

From his 4-H Club earnings and prizes Oren Lee Staley of Andrew County has built a business. In his tenth and last year of 4-H Club work he has breeding herd of 20 registered Shorthorns, small herd of hogs, and sound experience in efficient livestock production and successful cooperation with fellow members. He is now finishing off yearling steer and ton litter for exhibition at St. Joseph 4-H Baby Beef and Pig Club Show.

Milkweed harvest. - With free theater tickets as added incentive for harvesting of milkweed floss to make life jackets, Linn County boys and girls gathered 745 bushels of pods on one Saturday and almost snowed under the county agent, who was receiving and counting bushel bags. Collection in that county is continuing as long as there are any pods to pick. Earliest harvest of milkweed

floss this year was that of Bates County, where 1,500 bushels of pods were gathered by 4-H Club members and others during two weeks last July. Two community 4-H Clubs at Amsterdam and Hume were largest groups in this campaign, and with smaller groups in same county they were first in Missouri to ship dried pods to processing plant at Petoskey, Mich. Bates County campaign, organized by Extension in cooperation with other groups and agencies, was highlighted by county rally known as Save a Life Day. Other counties in western prairie region of Missouri joined in picking pods.

Nutrition. - Midyear survey on adoption of nutrition practices in Ste. Genevieve County is reported by home demonstration agents in terms that indicate encouraging trend. Last year less than 1/3 of women reporting had provided dark green or yellow vegetables once a day; this year more than 9/10 have done so. Last year 80 women out of 96 reporting had served milk every meal for children; this year all 41 women replying said they had done so. This progress is credited jointly to home economics extension clubs and rural schools. Last winter home demonstration agent and county agent gave talks on nutrition at more than half of schools in county.



